DIEV ET MON DROIT.

¶ By the King.

HAuing occaſion at this time to deliberate vpon diuers great and weightie affaires highly tending to the continuance and further ſetling of the peaceable gouernment and ſafetie of this Our Kingdome, whereof God hath giuen Vs the charge, Wee haue thought good, according to the laudable Cuſtome of Our Progenitors, to craue the aduice and aſſiſtance herein of Our well affected Subiects, by calling a Parliament, to begin vpon the ſixteenth day of January next; And though there were no more to be had in conſideration, but the preſent face of Chriſtendome, ſo miſerably and dangerouſly diſtracted at this time, beſides a number of other great and waighty affaires, that Wee are to reſolue vpon, Wee haue more then ſufficient reaſon to wiſh and deſire, (if euer at any time, eſpecially at this) that the Knights and Burgeſſes that ſhall ſerue in Parliament, be, according to the old Inſtitutions, choſen of the grauеſt, ableſt, and beſt affected minds that may be found. And therefore out of the Care of the Common good, Whereof themſelues are alſo participant, Wee doe hereby admoniſh all Our louing Subiects that haue votes in the Elections, that Choiſe be made of perſons approued for their ſincerity in Religion, and not of any, that is noted either of ſuperſtitious blindneſſe one way, or of turbulent humors another way, but of ſuch as ſhall be found zealous and obedient children to this their Mother Church.

And as to the Knights of Shires, That they caſt their eyes vpon the worthieſt men, of all ſortes of Knights and Gentlemen, that are Guides and Lights of their Countries, of good experience, and great integritie, Men that leade an honeſt and exemplary life in their Countries, doing Vs good ſeruice therein, And no Bankrupts or diſcontented Perſons that cannot fiſh but in troubled Waters: And for the Burgeſſes, That they make choice of them that beſt vnderſtand the State of their Countries, Cities, or Boroughs, And where ſuch may not be had within their Corporations, then of other graue and diſcreet men, fit to ſerue in ſo worthie an Aſſembly. For Wee may well foreſee, how ill effects the bad choice of vnfit men may produce, if the Houſe ſhould bee ſupplied with Bankrupts and neceſſitous perſons that may deſire long Parliaments for their priuate protections, Or with young and vnexperienced men that are not ripe and mature for ſo graue a Councell, Or with men of meane qualities in themſelues, who may onely ſerue to applaud the opinion of others on whom they depend, Or yet with curious and Wrangling Lawyers, who may ſeeke reputation by ſtirring needleſſe queſtions: But Wee wiſh all our good Subiects ſo to vnderſtand theſe Our admonitions, as that Wee no way meane to barre them of their lawfull freedome in election, according to the fundamentall lawes and laudable cuſtome of this Our Kingdome, and eſpecially in the times of good and ſetled gouernement.

Giuen at Our Court at Theobaldes the ſixth day of Nouember, in the eighteenth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Brittaine, France and Ireland.

God ſaue the King.

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